(b) As per information provided by the State Government, details of plantations carried out in the hilly areas of Himachal Pradesh under various schemes during the last three years in forest lands are given below:

(Area in hectares)

Sl. No.	Sector	Target 9th Plan (1997-2002)	Achievements		
			1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01)
1	State Plan schemes	145900	25204	26149	15419
2	Centrally Sponsored Schemes	31800	3864	3519	3352
3	Others	—	2232	842	1229
	TOTAL	177700	31300	30510	20000

In addition, 10 lakh seedlings have been distributed annually for plantation on private lands.

(c) Funds earmarked/utilised during the last two years for this purpose are given below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Allocation	Utilisation
1999-2000	3421.952	3421.252
2000-01	3112.630	3112.630*

*Estimated

Most polluted cities

3857. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Indian cities rank among the most polluted cities of the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) which are the ten most polluted cities in the country in the order of their pollution level?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) According to the World Health Organisation and the United Nations Environment Programme, the ambient levels of suspended particulate matter in respect

of Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai rank 4th, 6th and 13th respectively among 41 cities of the world. With respect to the ambient levels of sulphur dioxide, the above cities rank 27th, 18th and 37th respectively among 54 cities of the world.

(c) Based on estimated air and water pollution load, the 10 most polluted cities in the country on order of their pollution ranking are: Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Kanpur, Pune and Lucknow.

Increase in forest cover of Delhi

3858. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the forest cover of Delhi increased from 26 sq. km. in 1978 to 88 sq. km. in 1999 i.e. more than three times, as per the latest report of the Forest Survey of India;

(b) what steps have been taken/are being taken to increase the forest cover throughout India, with the help of State Governments/ NGOs and voluntary organisations; and

(c) what has been its effect?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Various important steps taken by the Government for increasing of forest cover throughout the country are:

(i) Afforestation programmes are undertaken by State/UT Governments including by involving NGOs and voluntary organisations from their own resources as well as with financial assistance from Government of India.

(ii) Externally aided projects are being implemented for development and preservation of forests.

(iii) Guidelines have been issued to all State/UT Governments to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forests.

(iv) Forest (Conservation) Act, the 1980 has been enacted to regulate the diversion of forest lands.

(v) A net work of protected areas has been established.

(vi) Ministry has prepared a National Forestry Action Plan to enhance the contribution of forestry and tree resources for